

24  
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

YOUNG MEN'S

Mercantile Library Association

OF CINCINNATI,

For the Year 1859.

---

CINCINNATI:  
PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION.  
1860.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from

This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

## Board of Directors for 1859.

---

CHARLES W. ROWLAND,	-	-	-	PRESIDENT.
THEODORE COOK,	-	-	-	VICE PRESIDENT.
M. T. WILLIAMSON,	-	-	-	COR. SECRETARY.
JOHN L. TALBOTT,	-	-	-	REC. SECRETARY.
FRANK H. BALDWIN,	-	-	-	TREASURER.
BENJAMIN EVANS,	-	-	-	} DIRECTORS.
S. G. HUBBARD,	-	-	-	
THOMAS W. HOWELL,	-	-	-	
THOMAS A. COLTER,	-	-	-	
JOHN A. TOWNLEY,	-	-	-	

---

## Board of Directors for 1860.

---

THEODORE COOK,	-	-	-	-	PRESIDENT.
W. C. VANDERBILT,	-	-	-	-	VICE PRESIDENT.
WM. STEWART,	-	-	-	-	COR. SECRETARY.
J. J. McDOWELL,	-	-	-	-	REC. SECRETARY.
S. G. HUBBARD,	-	-	-	-	TREASURER.
WM. CRICHTON, JR.,	-	-	-	-	} DIRECTORS.
J. C. WOODRUFF,	-	-	-	-	
J. M. WILSON,	-	-	-	-	
W. I. TORRENCE,	-	-	-	-	
JOS. B. CHAPMAN,	-	-	-	-	



# ANNUAL MEETING.

---

ROOMS MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, }  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1860.

PRESIDENT in the Chair.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved. PRESIDENT stated the object of the meeting to be to elect Officers for the ensuing year, to receive the Annual Reports of the Board and Treasurer, and transact such other business as offered.

The first business in order was the election of Officers. The Report of the Nominating Committee was called for, when the Chairman, Mr. C. R. FOSDICK, made the following nominations for the Regular Ticket :

<i>For President,</i>	THEODORE COOK.
<i>" Vice President,</i>	P. B. CLOON.
<i>" Cor. Secretary,</i>	E. TAYLOR, JR.
<i>" Rec. Secretary,</i>	P. A. SPINNING.
<i>" Treasurer,</i>	J. W. VINTON.
<i>" Directors,</i>	J. H. LAWS,
<i>" "</i>	ROBERT H. BROWN,
<i>" "</i>	H. G. EATON,
<i>" "</i>	F. G. CLENEAY,
<i>" "</i>	GEO. SHILLITO, JR.

Which was immediately withdrawn by Mr. J. H. LAWS, in behalf of the above named gentlemen. Mr. LAWS then moved the Report be laid on the table, which was carried. Mr. LAWS then made the following Independent Nominations :

<i>For President,</i>	THEODORE COOK.
<i>" Vice President,</i>	W. C. VANDERBILT.
<i>" Cor. Secretary,</i>	WM. STEWART.
<i>" Rec. Secretary,</i>	J. J. McDOWELL.
<i>" Treasurer,</i>	S. G. HUBBARD.
<i>" Directors,</i>	WM. CRICHTON, JR.,
<i>" "</i>	J. C. WOODRUFF,
<i>" "</i>	J. M. WILSON,
<i>" "</i>	W. I. TORRENCE,
<i>" "</i>	JOS. B. CHAPMAN.

Mr. J. L. KECK nominated THOS. J. BIGGS, Jr., as the Regular Candidate for President.

On motion, the nominations then closed.

The following gentlemen were appointed Tellers :

<i>For President,</i>	-	-	-	Messrs. VINTON & FOSDICK.
" <i>Vice President,</i>	-	-	-	" GRAHAM & CLOON.
" <i>Cor. Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	" CHAPMAN & WOODNUT.
" <i>Rec. Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	" SWASEY & SHILLITO.
" <i>Treasurer,</i>	-	-	-	" GILMORE & MIDDLETON.
" <i>Directors,</i>	-	-	-	" JOHNSON & ROYSE.

The result of the Election was as follows :

THEO. COOK received 212 votes.		T. J. BIGGS, Jr. received 179 votes.	
Scattering,	2	THEO. COOK'S Majority, 31.	
W. C. VANDERBILT,	380	J. C. WOODRUFF,	373
WM. STEWART,	375	J. M. WILSON,	372
J. J. McDOWELL,	375	W. I. TORRENCE,	375
S. G. HUBBARD,	370	JOS. B. CHAPMAN,	372
WM. CRICHTON, Jr.,	372		

The PRESIDENT announced the Ticket elected, as follows :

<i>President,</i>	-	-	-	THEODORE COOK.
<i>Vice President,</i>	-	-	-	W. C. VANDERBILT.
<i>Cor. Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	WM. STEWART.
<i>Rec. Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	J. J. McDOWELL.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	-	-	-	S. G. HUBBARD.
<i>Directors,</i>	-	-	-	WM. CRICHTON, JR.,
"	-	-	-	J. C. WOODRUFF,
"	-	-	-	J. M. WILSON,
"	-	-	-	W. I. TORRENCE,
"	-	-	-	J. B. CHAPMAN.

The PRESIDENT read the Annual Report of the Board of Directors, which was received and ordered upon the Records of the Association.

The TREASURER read the Report of the Finances, which was received and ordered upon the Records.

The Special Committee upon ways and means for securing better attendance at Association Meetings, presented the following Report, which, on motion, was made the special order for the next Quarterly Meeting :

"OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE Y. M. M. L. A.—

"Your Committee appointed at the October Meeting of last year to advise some plan whereby the attendance of members at the Quarterly Meetings will be increased, after giving the subject their careful considera-

tion, are of the opinion that the non-attendance of members at said meetings, may chiefly be attributed to the fact that very little, if any, business of importance is presented for their consideration. The Annual Election in January has generally been found to be an efficient means of awakening the interest of members in the affairs of the Association. Could elections be held at the Quarterly Meetings for a portion of our Officers, the interest of members might thus be manifested Quarterly instead of Annually. Should it be thought impolitic to change the present method and time of our election, some other business must be presented which will act as an inducement for members to leave their firesides for a few hours, or to forsake for the evening, other pleasures, and devote the same to the affairs of the Association.

"With a view, then, of presenting business for the meetings of the present year, and to give the members an opportunity to express their views as to any matters of reform, and to change our organic law in some of its leading features, if by them considered advisable, your Committee most respectfully propose amendments to the Constitution to the following effect, to be discussed and acted on at the Quarterly Meetings of the present year, partiular care being taken by the Board of Directors to notify members by timely notice in the daily papers.

"1st. Amend the Constitution, so that a portion of the Officers may be elected at the Quarterly Meetings, or any one of them, instead of all at the Annual Meeting.

"2d. Amend so that the Librarian shall be a member of the Board of Directors—after his election by them—acting and voting with them, and to be, ex-officio, its Secretary.

"3d. Amend so as to prohibit the Board of Directors from making purchases or creating liabilities for matters foreign to the legitimate purposes of the Association, unless authorized so to do at a regular or called meeting of the Association.

"4th. Amend, admitting professional men and mechanics to the privileges of active members.

"5th. Amend, as above, adding the restrictive "except holding office."

"6th. Amend, so as to provide for the establishing and supporting, by subscription or regular dues, a department of science and art, as a part and parcel of this Association, to be under the control of six Directors elected for that purpose; two to be elected at each Quarterly Meeting, and to serve for one year.

"7th. Add to the By-Laws, Sec. 20, setting apart two hours of *every* day, or of *certain* days, for ladies to occupy the Reading-Room.

"Your Committee, in proposing the above changes, wish it understood

that while they may favor the adoption of some of them, they are opposed to others, but have submitted all of them, with the hope that profitable discussion may be provoked, and such changes only made as will be for the benefit of the Association.

“Respectfully submitted,

“M. T. WILLIAMSON,  
“JOHN D. CALDWELL,  
“JAMES H. LAWS.”

On motion of Mr. ROBINSON, it was

*Resolved*, That — number of copies of the Annual Report be printed, the number to be left at the discretion of the Board.

On motion of Mr. S. M. MURPHY, it was

*Resolved*, That the Thanks of the Association are due, and are hereby tendered the retiring Board, for the faithful and satisfactory manner in which they have performed their duties to the Association.

No further business offering, on motion, the meeting adjourned.

J. L. TALBOTT, *Rec. Secretary.*



# YOUNG MEN'S MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

## TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

---

IN retiring from office, the Board of Directors beg leave to submit the following Report for the year 1859 :

### MEMBERSHIP.

The results of the year are as follows, viz.:

GAIN.				Loss.			
Active, -	-	-	409	Left city, -	-	-	244
Honorary, -	-	-	90	Resigned, -	-	-	218
Life, -	-	-	7	Dead, -	-	-	20
Hon. Ex-Officio, -	-	-	17				<hr/>
			<hr/>				482
			523				

Leaving the gain for the year 41.

It is a matter of regret that the excitement, which generally results from the *canvass* in December, was *not felt* in the increase of members. Up to the *first* of December the additions were large, inducing the Board to anticipate a better result for the *year* than is shown in the sequel. The experience of several years has, however, demonstrated that the class of members added during the

annual period of excitement furnishes the large majority of *chronic* delinquents. To *this* troublesome class the Board have invariably administered the constitutional remedy, determined that those who persistently refuse to comply with their financial obligations to the Association should not partake of its benefits. The whole number of members now belonging to the Association is 3,237.

PRIZES.—Several gentlemen, members of the Association, placed in the hands of the Board a beautiful set of Prescott's works, complete; also a set of Marryatt's works, complete. The same to be awarded to those two members of the Association who should procure the largest number of new members during the first eleven months of the year. These prizes were awarded to M. W. Sage and James Y. Semple—Mr. Sage having obtained eighty-four and Mr. Semple sixty new members.

### LIBRARY.

As the *primary* object of the Institution, the Board have bestowed upon the Library the attention demanded by its importance; but the lack of means and a strong aversion to debt have prevented such additions as were earnestly desired. The circulation for the year has been 38,000 volumes. The number of volumes added is:

By purchase,	-	-	-	215 vols.
“ donation,	-	-	-	130 “
“ binding,	-	-	-	143 “
“ duplicates,	-	-	-	295 “

---

Total additions for the year, 782 vols.

The whole number of books now in the Library is 19,873 volumes. To the following persons and institu-

tions we are indebted for contributions of books, pamphlets, etc.:

Hon. W. S. Groesbeck, Cincinnati.	Mercantile Library, Baltimore.
Hon. Geo. E. Pugh, “	I. N. Bowditch, Boston.
Hon. Geo. H. Pendleton, “	R. K. Elliott, Washington.
Hon. S. S. Cox, Columbus.	J. T. Lloyd, Philadelphia.
Hon. A. W. Loomis, Pittsburgh.	Alexander Easton, “
Judge Jas. Hall, Cincinnati.	Theodore S. Parvin, Cincinnati.
Judge Isaac C. Collins, Cincinnati.	Richard Nelson, “
Smithsonian Institute.	C. F. Hall, “
Y. Men's Association, Milwaukee.	C. S. Williams, “
S. G. Hubbard, Cincinnati.	W. T. Kittredge, “
C. W. Rowland, “	John King, M. D. “
C. Davenport, “	D. G. Ray, New York.
W. T. Cogshall, Columbus.	Prof. J. P. Espy, Washington.
Prof. A. A. Brunner, Cincinnati.	Howard Mathews, Cincinnati.
Mercantile Library, St. Louis.	Maryland Institute, Baltimore.
Mercantile Library, San Francisco.	Major Lachlan, Cincinnati.

It has been the aim of the Board, to purchase only such a number of the current publications (in the departments of Fiction and Biography) as was necessary to sustain the *popular* character of the Library. In some cases an extraordinary demand for new works has induced the purchase of ten to fifteen duplicates. It is unfortunate that this ephemeral class of works should absorb so much of the limited means which a Board may safely apply to the purchase of books; leaving but little for the addition of those of a more valuable and enduring character. We indulge the hope that at no distant day the liberality and public spirit of our citizens will place the Association in possession of such a Library as will not only meet the demands of a liberal and enlightened *mercantile* community, but also attract to it men of extensive research and profound erudition.

Many have been led to view the *free* Ohio State Library, (controlled by the School Board of this city,) as a formidable

rival to the Association; but the Board have seen no reasons to regard it as hostile to our continued prosperity. The libraries of our city are inadequate to supply the wants of the population, and the *Free Library* will contribute largely to meet a demand from those who have not had access to *ours*, thus enlarging the circle of readers and diffusing the light of knowledge.

### READING ROOM.

It affords pleasure to report a growing interest in this department, and an increasing attendance on the part of the members. Such additions have been made, as were suggested from time to time. We would urge upon our successors the great importance of it, as being less liable to successful competition than any of our various interests, and as a daily *want* of our mercantile community. But, *chiefly*, it commends itself as a place of pleasant and profitable resort for the young men of our city, who may here spend the season of leisure, in gathering those facts and mastering those principles, the priceless materials, which form the solid character and shape the high destiny of the true MAN and MERCHANT.

NEWSPAPERS.				MAGAZINES.			
Daily,	-	-	92	Quarterly,	-	-	39
Weekly,	-	-	136	Bi-Monthly,	-	-	3
			<hr/>	Monthly,	-	-	89
Total,	-	-	228				<hr/>
				Total,	-	-	131

### LECTURES.

The financial result of the Lectures delivered during the year, is as follows, viz:

Receipts,	\$2,886.75	Expenses,	\$2,846.33
Profits on Lectures for the whole year,	\$40.42		

Looking *only* to the great amount of labor necessary to secure the services of suitable Lecturers, to dependence upon the capricious tastes of the lecture-going community, and to the financial risks of inclement weather and other contingencies, the Board would have been happy to discontinue Lectures entirely. But, being convinced that they are valuable and attractive means of improvement; that, bringing the Association constantly before the public, as the foremost patron of Literature and Science, they contribute largely to its popularity with our citizens, the Board were not prepared to dispense with them. They accordingly commenced an early correspondence with distinguished gentlemen in various parts of the country, which resulted in presenting during the year an array of TALENT which has never been surpassed in the history of the Institution. During the year, the *system* of Lectures, as connected with our Association, has been the theme of unjust criticism and animadversion with several prominent magazines and newspapers, published here and elsewhere. A brief reply to some of the many objections urged, may not be inappropriate to an Annual Report. It is claimed that *none* but *first-class* Lecturers should be engaged; but it must be remembered that it is impossible to fix the *standard*, while intelligent men vary so widely in their estimate of *ability*. Commanding *ability* is *rare* in all professions, and were the possession of it *essential* to the existence of *all*, many would feel the force of this austere law, before that of the LECTURER. Many of the most competent literary men of our country cannot be induced to engage in it, but we opine that it will survive all the assaults of its *critical* enemies, and continue to be regarded as an indispensable source of instruction and culture. To those who fear its *moral* tendencies, we would suggest an

obvious remedy—let those who are charged with an insidious propagation of *error* through this popular channel, be met on their chosen theatre with the force of Reason and the majesty of Truth. The position of former Boards in regard to the choice of *subjects* and the manner of treatment, is obviously the proper one. Without attempting the dictation of theme or treatment, and inviting the widest range of rational discussion upon all that deeply concerns our race, the Board felt that it was important to exercise a discretion, which forbade them from inviting those through whose splendid diction and charming delivery the features of the artful demagogue and baneful fanatic are visible. The following is a statement of Lectures delivered during the year, viz :

HENRY GILES,	WM. G. DIX, ESQ.,
BAYARD TAYLOR,	REV. THOS. STARR KING,
DR. S. SILSBEE,	REV. STUART ROBINSON,
J. G. SAXE,	HON. F. P. BLAIR, JR.,
REV. C. B. PARSONS,	HON. H. S. FOOTE,
REV. H. W. BELLOWS,	REV. GEO. C. ROBINSON.

The following gentlemen have been engaged to Lecture in 1860, viz :

BAYARD TAYLOR,	HON. H. J. RAYMOND,
O. P. BALDWIN,	HON. W. S. GROESBECK,
R. W. EMERSON,	REV. E. H. CHAPIN.

### PARK BENJAMIN.

In the last Annual Report, allusion was made to the suit of this gentleman against the Association, for a refusal on the part of the Board of 1857, to accept his services as a Lecturer, after a breach of the engagement, on *his* part. The result of that suit vindicated the action of the Board. Since then, a motion for a new trial on the



part of Mr. BENJAMIN, has been overruled, and judgment entered in favor of the Association. The decision in the case is deemed important, as establishing, in point of FACT, the existence of a general and uniform usage, between public Lecturers and Literary Associations by whom they are employed, prevalent throughout the chief cities and towns of the United States, that after an engagement is made for the delivery of a Lecture at a particular time and place, no *other* Lecture shall be delivered by the same person in the same place *prior* to the time appointed, without the consent of the other party; and in point of LAW—*First*. That the custom being general, public Lecturers are presumed to have knowledge of its existence, and to make their engagements with reference to the observance of it, and will be held to such observance, unless the contract otherwise provide, either in express terms or by words of necessary implication; and, *Second*. That such a usage is reasonable and lawful, as conducing to the just protection of such Associations, if not to the mutual benefit of the parties; and as not imposing an unjust restraint on a lawful occupation, either to the prejudice of the party, or of the public at large. The opinion of the Court was delivered at great length, and contained a searching investigation of the testimony and the law. It will be published, we are informed, in the “Weekly Law Bulletin,” as soon as it can be revised for the press. We return our hearty thanks to Judge O. M. SPENCER, for the foregoing epitome of the decision in this case, and also to THOS. J. GALLAGHER, Esq., for his attention to the interests of the Association, from the commencement of the suit to its satisfactory termination.

## WORKS OF ART.

The additions are—a Bust of Hon. S. P. CHASE, presented by Mr. S. C. NEWTON, and a Bust of JOHN P. FOOTE, Esq., presented by D. B. LAWLER, Esq. A marble Bust of BURNS, belonging to the “Burns’ Club” of this City, has been deposited in our rooms for several months, and has excited the admiration of visitors. We entertain the hope that the “Club” may be induced to leave it there, to be removed only for their use upon anniversary and other important occasions. The Board made an effort to secure the collection of Art belonging to the “Ladies’ Art Gallery” of this City, but were unwilling to involve the Association to the amount necessary to obtain it, though not equal to *one-third its value*.

## IMPROVEMENTS.

To preserve the elegant carpet in the Reading Room, we purchased sufficient drugget to cover it in the aisles and around the tables, where injuriously exposed. To secure a better light about the alcoves, sixteen brackets were placed upon them. The closing of the rooms in May, when the circulation was called in, was an occasion improved by the thorough cleansing of the rooms, washing the walls, *painting* the ceilings, and varnishing the wood-work; thus leaving the rooms in the best condition.

## “CHRISTY CABINET.”

The entire expense of maintaining the Cabinet to this date, is about (\$600) six hundred dollars.

The beautiful collection of Corals, presented by the Board of last year, has been placed in a handsome case,



and constitutes an ornament to the rooms. We have differed from the Board who made the purchase, and must refer the reader to the Appendix for a statement of our views and an account of the unfriendly legislation of the year upon this peculiar institution.

### FINANCES.

From the Report of the Treasurer, (appended to this Report,) it will be seen that the finances of the Association are in a good condition, considering the expense of the *Cabinet*, the small additions to our membership roll during the month of December (attributable to the absence of *election* excitement,) and the comparatively small profits derived from Lectures.

### PLANETARIUM.

Mr. THOMAS H. BARLOW, the inventor, proposed to sell us one of his \$400 Instruments for \$300 and a Life-Membership. The Board did not accept the proposition, but agreed to lend him their individual aid in raising the money required. It is now the *property* of the Association, and to secure it, the Board made a small appropriation and issued the certificate of Life-Membership to Mr. BARLOW. We commend him to the liberality of the members in raising (at his risk) the remainder of the money.

### NEW ROOM.

The subject of addition to our present room, has received the anxious attention of the Board, but with limited means, and no immediate necessity for action, it was thought best to leave to the chances of the future and the enterprise of our successors in office, the provision for this approaching want of the Institution.

## INSURANCE.

The property of the Association is insured as follows, viz :

Central Insurance Co.,	-	-	-	-	-	\$5,000
Eagle Insurance Co.,	-	-	-	-	-	2,500
Commercial Insurance Co.,	-	-	-	-	-	6,500
Merchants' and Manufacturers' Insurance Co.,	-					2,500
National Insurance Co.,	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Washington Insurance Co.,	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Fireman's Insurance Co.,	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Western Insurance Co.,	-	-	-	-	-	2,500
Cincinnati Insurance Co.,	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
All home offices.						
						<hr/> \$39,000

## LIBRARIAN AND ASSISTANTS.

Mr. R. H. Stephenson was re-elected to serve in his former capacity during the year, and the Board bear cheerful testimony to his capacity and fidelity. The Assistant Librarians, Messrs. Charles A. Harrison and Cyrus M. Wright, resigned their situations in the summer, and their places were filled by George A. Morris and Frank J. Anthony, who have rendered entire satisfaction.

In conclusion, the Board yield back the important trusts committed to them for the past year, with a firm conviction of the present strength and extensive usefulness of the Institution and with high anticipation of its future success. The present year (1860,) will witness the 25th anniversary of its prosperous and useful existence, and may well prove a suitable occasion for reviewing its career with pride and satisfaction—its steady advance from obscurity to its present commanding position; from limited means and membership to its present MEMBERSHIP of 3,300, its LIBRARY of 20,000 volumes, and an unrivaled READING ROOM. Let there be no pause in

its onward march ; let its resources of light and knowledge and the circle of its healthful influences be commensurate with the intellectual wants of the people, with the rapid material development and commercial glory of the "Queen City of the West."

By order of and in behalf of the Board of Directors.

CHARLES W. ROWLAND,

*President.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1859.

YOUNG MEN'S MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, IN ACCOUNT WITH, F. H. BALDWIN, TREASR.

R E C E I P T S .		E X P E N D I T U R E S .	
Balance from Treasurer of 1858,-----	\$87 68	For Newspapers and Magazines, etc.,-----	\$1,774 31
Membership Dues, Initiation Fees, and		" Books,-----	574 47
Life Memberships,-----	8,276 00	" Binding,-----	276 77
Lecture receipts,-----	2,886 75	" Printing, Advertising, etc.,-----	509 62
		" Postage,-----	135 53
		" Rent,-----	200 00
		" Building, (Repairing, etc.),-----	328 40
		" Light,--Cincinnati Gas Co.'s Bills,-----	879 32
		" Insurance,-----	387 48
		" Incidental Expenses, (per Vouchers,)-----	332 77
		" Salaries,-----	2,527 33
		" Christy Cabinet, (Interest, etc.),-----	414 31
		" Lectures,-----	2,846 33
		Cash on hand,-----	\$11,186 64
			63 79
			\$11,250 43
Balance Cash on hand January 3d, 1859-----			\$63 79

# TREASURER'S SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

## INDEBTEDNESS.

Incurrd for Books,	\$300 38
“ “ Magazines and Newspapers,	64 53
“ “ Binding,	221 59
“ “ Printing,	53 25
“ “ Incidentals,	49 92
Balance due T. H. Barlow on Planetarium,	40 50
“ “ Rent due Chamber of Commerce,	300 00
“ “ Interest on Christy Cabinet, (due 1st January),	160 00
	—————\$1,190 17

21

## RESOURCES.

Uncollected Bills, Members' Dues, and Fees, to date,	\$1,122 00
Balance Cash on hand,	63 79
	—————\$1,185 79

F. H. BALDWIN, *Treasurer.*

## APPENDIX.

---

### CHRISTY CABINET REVIEWED.

IN the last Annual Report the history of the purchase of the Cabinet, and the reasons which induced the late Board to take the step, are given at length. One of the earliest duties of the Board was a patient and candid examination of this subject in all its bearings. Throughout the year it has been a source of much anxiety, and our solicitude was increased from the fact that the purchase was concluded and the obligations assumed by the late Board, *just before* the expiration of their term of office, when the practical value of it had not been fairly tested by *experience* and its anticipated *benefits* were matters of *mere conjecture*. Upon examination, the Board were, early in the year, forced to the conclusion that the *purchase* of the "shells, minerals, and fossils" was unfortunate, involving the Association in a heavy debt for the acquisition of *that* which will yield no adequate return, and standing out *confessedly* in the history of the Institution as the only instance of departure from "its heretofore well-defined objects," by the contraction of a debt, in "adding a scientific department to what has hitherto been purely a literary Association." As such we entered against it our earnest protest, and were we not satisfied that the constitutionality of the purchase was doubtful, that it was a departure from the objects contemplated by the founders of the Association (so far as those objects may be inferred from the Charter under which they organized, the preamble to the Constitution, and a history of twenty-four years, furnishing no precedent to such a step,) we would suggest such an amendment of the second article of our Constitution as would more clearly define the powers of the Board of Directors and confine them to definite limits in the investment of funds and the contraction of *debt* for any *one* object.

The palpable objections to the purchase, the manifest disapprobation of it by a large majority of the active members; and the *probability* that no future Board will assume such authority, would seem to render such a change unnecessary at present.

The inference is that the first impulse of the Board would have been directed to the immediate sale of the Cabinet; but our respect for the late efficient Board, and the admission that *we might* be in error, induced us to make an effort, in conjunction with them to place it in such a position as to cause no diversion of the funds of the Institution from its primary



objects. No plan of liquidating the *debt* was pointed out in the late Annual Report, and the Vested Property Committee was requested to confer with the members of the late Board and other friends of the measure, and to invite their cordial co-operation in carrying out some *feasible* plan. A conference with them resulted in their submitting a plan, which seemed to us so objectionable as to cause us to refuse to subject the *property* of the Association to such conditions as were proposed. It is not necessary to enter *here* into the detail of those objections. Let it suffice to express the belief that the plan was impracticable, and that it would, if adopted, have proved a source of *endless* trouble to all future Boards of Directors. Eighty dollars *only* was subscribed under the proposed plan, and an effort made to raise the entire amount by subscription disclosed the fact that the most that could be hoped for would not amount to a sum sufficient to pay the entire expense of the Cabinet to the present date. The Board determined to expend nothing upon the Cabinet in the way of money, but to submit to the Association at the Quarterly Meeting in April a statement of the position of it, and to recommend its sale at cost, *if necessary*. No definite action was taken at that meeting, but the whole subject was postponed to the 10th day of May, to be made then the *special order* of the called meeting.

By the vote of a large majority of those present the Board were authorized to make such disposition of it as would serve the best interests of the Association. Fruitless efforts were made at different times during the year to effect a sale of it upon such terms as would cover the entire cost. The Board felt some disappointment in a failure to induce Professor Christy to take the *Cabinet* and return the *bond* of the Association, as promised by him in February. No effort has been lacking, on our part, to rid the Association of this *INCUBUS* without suffering pecuniary loss. That portion of the collection not on exhibition is in an upper room of "College" building, insured and at a trifling expense for rent. The Cabinet is valuable for *scientific* purposes, and adds some attraction to our rooms. Could it have been obtained by donation it would be proper that we should possess it. With an early Board (1842) we would urge the acquisition of all specimens of Natural History, and all paintings, engravings, statuary, etc., which may be *donated*, but in our present condition we protest against the *purchase* of *any* of them.

Regretting to be compelled to differ from the late Board as to this important step, and attributing to them the best motives in the premises, we close this *review* with the hope that the Cabinet and all other obstructions to the progress of the Association may meet with a speedy and safe removal. The importance of the question, and the desire to make a clear and candid exhibit of it will, we trust, constitute a suitable apology for the length of this Appendix.







